

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

INFORMATION

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NSA, OSD, Army reviews completed

February 11, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR:

MR. KISSINGER

FROM:

WILLIAM L. STEARMAN

SUBJECT:

Cease-fire Developments
(February 11 - 4:00 p.m. EST)

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

The following is a report on current cease-fire developments in South Vietnam and on the present situation in Laos and Cambodia. This report includes information received from State, Defense and CIA as of 4:00 p.m. EST February 11, 1973.

Vietnam

MORI/CDF
C05082160

Military Situation

-- Military activity continues at a low level with most enemy attacks occurring in MRs 1 and 4 and some against GVN roadclearing efforts in Pleiku Province (MR 2).

-- GVN efforts to recapture the town of Sa Huynh (southern MR 1) are stalled.

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-- Recent intercepts reveal that some of the more than 300 North Vietnamese tanks and armored vehicles, which have been moving through the Laos panhandle, are now beginning to cross into South Vietnam and Cambodia.

-- (For the bar graph) There were thirty-one major and one hundred and eleven minor cease-fire violations during the 24 hour period ending 0700 EST February 11.

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-- In a meeting between U.S. and GVN Deputy Chiefs, we were told that the GVN Delegation Chief, Lt. Gen. Dzu, has been replaced (by former airborne division commander Lt. Gen. Du Quoc Dong) because he was inept and also not "tough enough" in negotiations with his Communist counterparts. We were also told that the GVN has been reluctant to establish a Two Party JMC because it desires to limit the number of PRG personnel in military commissions.

-- Using the Ban Me Thuot incident as a pretext, the other side proposed a draft agreement concerning freedom of movement, the right to press contacts, the right to receive violations complaints, and the right to fly flags. This proposal will be discussed February 12.

-- A U.S. doctor with the FPJMC team investigating the Ban Me Thuot incident reported that his examination of those reportedly injured in the incident revealed no broken bones or signs of bleeding. The reportedly "seriously injured" person was found to be in good condition.

-- Popular demonstrations against Communist JMC members have recently occurred in Hue, Quang Tin, Tam Ky, Pleiku, and Chu Lai; but have been kept under control by the GVN. However, a crowd of 3,000 to 5,000 demonstrators in Chu Lai reportedly succeeded in breaking windows in the DRV delegation quarters building.

-- The U.S. CORDS representative in Hue reports that continued enemy attacks are fuelling the already intense hates and fears of populace. He further reports that Saigon is taking the threat of large anti-Communist demonstrations very seriously and is keeping close tabs on the situation in his area.

ICCS

-- During a discussion of the Ban Me Thuot incident at the February 10 meeting, the Canadian delegation firmly insisted that the ICCS should only send a strong letter to the FPJMC suggesting an investigation by the latter. The other three delegations, however, preferred an on-the-spot ICCS investigation. (They compromised by agreeing to ask the ICCS team in Pleiku to obtain information from its FPJMC counterpart.)

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POWs

-- The GVN has told us it will, on February 12, present the PRG with an initial -- and partial -- list of 3-4,000 names to meet the requirements of Article 7 (c) of the POW protocol. It believes the PRG list will be similarly incomplete and anticipates considerable bargaining over lists and over release modalities.

Political

-- GVN-PRG talks in Paris have reached an impasse over future Saigon meetings. The GVN is not receptive to PRG demands for visibility and access to the press and population in Saigon.

Laos

-- There have been no significant changes in the military situation in northern Laos; however, in the south enemy pressure continues and attacks have been stepped up west of Saravane.

Cambodia

-- Communist pressure on Neak Luong and Kompong Thom continues, and U.S. tactical air has been employed for the second straight day.

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